

CHARLIE CHAN

No.
7

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STORY HIT

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ADVENTURES

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AUTHORITY

CHARLIE CHAN

10¢

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

POP--BIRMINGHAM'S
REALLY HOOKED. THAT
FAKER'S GOT HIM THINKING
THERE'S REALLY A MESSAGE
FROM THE BEYOND ON THE
PAPER IN THAT
BOTTLE.

YES. NOW UNLESS BRAIN
OF FRIGHTENED
CHAUFFEUR SUDDENLY
BEGIN TO HIT ON ALL
CYLINDERS MESSAGE
ON PAPER MAY BE
END OF US!

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CHARLIE CHAN

Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Application for Second-Class mailing privileges pending at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues \$1.20. Copyright 1955 by Charlton Comics Group.

Volume 1, Number 7

August, 1955
Charlton Building, Derby,
Conn. Printed in U.S.A.



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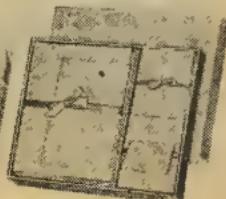
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CHARLIE CHAN

CHARLIE CHAN



Chinese Proverb
Say --
"POLICEMAN MUST
SEE WITH MORE
THAN EYES AND
HEAR WITH MORE
THAN EARS.
TRUTH SOMETIMES
SHOUTED LOUDEST
BY UNHEARD
VOICE OF..."

Silent Witness"



IT BEGINS IN A THEATRE ALLEY, AS IT IS TO END, IN A PARKED CAR, CHARLIE CHAN SPEAKS TO TWO OLD FRIENDS -- SECRET SERVICE MEN, AND THE TOPIC IS... TROUBLE!

CHARLIE, YOU CAN SEE WHY I SENT FOR YOU! PAUL HORTON WORKED FOR OUR GOVERNMENT. -- HE DISCOVERED A NEW, SIMPLE WAY TO SPLIT THE ATOM... NOW--HE'S GONE!



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CHARLIE CHAN

THERE IS A REHEARSAL IN PROGRESS ON THE STAGE OF THE THEATRE... BUT CHAN BELIEVES IN STARTING AT THE BOTTOM! THE FIRST STOP IN THE SEARCH IS THE GLOOMY CELLAR--

WHEW! POP, I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE! IF ANYONE'S DOWN HERE--WE'D MAKE PERFECT TARGETS!

BIG BAIT CATCHES BIG RATS! YOU SEARCH IN OTHER DIRECTION--- PERHAPS MISSING SCIENTIST STILL HERE!



MINUTES LATER...

HEY, POP! LOOK WHAT I FOUND! HER NAME'S MOIRA LUBECK... SHE'S A VENTRILOQUIST!



ONE OF THE SEAMSTRESSES WAS MAKING A NEW JACKET FOR MY DUMMY, AND I CAME TO GET IT!

MOIRA! SO THERE YOU ARE! WE'RE REHEARSING, AND WE'VE ONLY GOT A WEEK BEFORE WE LEAVE FOR PARIS, REMEMBER? WHO'S THIS?



THE NEWCOMER IS MARK STEINER, PRODUCER OF THE "STEINER TROUPE". CHAN EXPLAINS... ASKS QUESTIONS... BUT THERE IS NO INFORMATION HERE. IN HALF AN HOUR, HE IS BACK WITH MIRAH THIRTY-FIVE!

CHARLIE! BAD NEWS-- HORTON WAS JUST FOUND NEAR THE THEATRE... DEAD!

THIS HUMBLE ONE FEARED AS MUCH! YOU HAVE HEARD OF HARMALINE, THE TRUTH DRUG? I FIND THIS IN THEATRE CELLAR... BESIDE A CHAIR, WHERE PERHAPS A MAN WAS BOUND AND HELD PRISONER!



THEY MUST HAVE USED THIS TO GET THE SECRET OUT OF HORTON! THEN THEY DIDN'T NEED HIM ANY LONGER...

TRUTH, LIKE BLACK EYE, SOMETIMES MOST OBVIOUS! BUT THAT IS ONLY BEGINNING OF BAD NEWS! STEINER TROUPE LEAVE FOR PARIS IN ONE WEEK! IF TROUPE HAS SECRET-- IT WILL LEAVE WITH THEM!



BUT--THAT STILL LEAVES A WEEK--A WEEK IN WHICH SECRET SERVICE AGENTS PROBE... AND SEARCH THROUGH THE THEATRE.

IT'S TRUE THAT REGGIE WAS IN THE CELLAR THAT NIGHT, CHAN-- BUT HE'S ONLY A DUMMY! HE CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING!

WHO KNOWS? MAN WHO KILL HORTON WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MEMORIZE STOLEN INFORMATION! PERHAPS WRITTEN DOWN-- CONCEALED IN DUMMY!



SUDDENLY...

POP!!



CHARLIE CHAN



CHARLIE CHAN

THE PACKING TAKES AN HOUR. THEN THERE IS A FLIGHT INTO THE NIGHT. A DAY LATER--PARIS!

OUI, INSPECTOR CHAN. THE STEINER TRroupe ARRIVES IN ONE HOUR. THEY HAVE RESERVATIONS AT THE METROPOLE!

AND STARK, THE ENEMY AGENT, HAS ARRANGED TO LEAVE PARIS TONIGHT, AFTER THE PERFORMANCE! WE'LL BE THERE, OF COURSE...

STOLEN INFORMATION WILL BE PASSED TO STARK AT THEATRE...WE MUST LEARN HOW! PIECES OF PUZZLE ALL PRESENT... ONLY ONE TASK REMAIN... TO FIND KEY!

CHARLIE! YOU KNOW SOMETHING--WHAT IS IT?



BUT IF CHAN HAS AN IDEA--HE IS NOT TELLING... NOT YET! INSTEAD, LATER, HE PAYS A CALL...

MISTER CHAN! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN PARIS!

YOU WILL FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, MISS LUBECK! THE MANAGER SAID I MIGHT WAIT HERE.--I SEE REGGIE IS--WITH YOU, AS ALWAYS!

OF COURSE HE IS! REGGIE IS SORT OF A MASCOT...THE TRroupe LIKES TO HAVE HIM NEAR WHEN THEY WORK! STEINER CALLED ANOTHER REHEARSAL OF THE TEMPLE NUMBER...SOME FINAL CHANGES!

A GOOD LUCK CHARM, OF COURSE! EXCUSE US, MISS LUBECK, WE CAME ONLY TO PAY RESPECTS!



CHAN LEAVES...BUT HE DOES NOT GO FAR---

ALL RIGHT, MISTER CHAN... HANG UP! I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T FINISH THAT CALL TO THE SURETE...WE'RE GOING UPSTAIRS!

NO ONE NOTICES, OR INTERFERES, AS FOUR MEN STEP INTO THE ELEVATOR. AND LATER---NO ONE KNOWS WHAT A CERTAIN CLOSET CONTAINS---



MISTER CHAN--I WAS RIGHT! I DID SEE STEINER BRING YOU IN HERE! WHEN I STARTED TO LEAVE MY ROOM! HE HAD A GUN--WHAT HAPPENED?



NO TIME FOR TALK NOW! WHEN DOES SHOW BEGIN?

CHARLIE CHAN

IN HALF AN HOUR.
BUT--BUT YOU
CAN'T GO THERE!
STEINER HAD A
GUN! WHATEVER'S
GOING ON--HE
MIGHT KILL
YOU!

WE WILL ENTER
THEATRE BY
SIDE DOOR--
BACKSTAGE!
YOU GO TO
THEATRE
ALONE... AFTER
WE ARE GONE!

A MOMENT TO STRUGGLE
OUT OF THE KNOTTED
BONDS, THEN -- A DASH
TO THE STREET...

THE TRIP IS FAST... AND UN-
EVENTFUL. BUT AT THE SIDE
ENTRANCE TO THE THEATRE,
THINGS HAPPEN FAST!

COME ON!
COME ON!
WE'RE
CRAWLING!
POP'S IN
A HURRY!

AND POP WILL
DO ALL TALKING!
BIRMINGHAM--
YOU WILL
REMEMBER WHAT
YOU MUST DO
WHEN WE REACH
THEATRE -- IT IS
MOST IMPORTANT!



A SILENCER!
HE WAS GOING TO
KILL US! POP WAS
RIGHT! IF HE
HADN'T TOLD YOU
TO LOOK FOR
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS, WE MIGHT
 BOTH BE DEAD!
NICE WORK,
BIRMINGHAM!

NICE WORK
... IF YOU
CAN GET IT!
ONLY MY
TROUBLE IS...
I GOT IT!
AND I DON'T
WANT IT!

QUICKLY, BIRMINGHAM, AND NUMBER
ONE SON TIE UP THE THUG...
BUT CHAN DOES NOT LINGER!

CHAN!
LOOK
OUT!!



IT'S STEINER!
MISTER CHAN,
WHAT
HAPPENED?

CASE -- CLOSED, MISS LUBECK...
THANKS TO LITTLE MAN WITH
WOODEN HEAD! JACKET WORN
BY REGGIE MOST INTERESTING--
VERY CLEVER LINE CODE!

CHARLIE CHAN

SUSPECTED SAME, BUT SEEMED TOO CLUMSY! DUMMY TOO **LARGE** TO BE PASSED TO ENEMY AGENT SECRETLY! THEN, TODAY -- ANSWER CAME -- WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT REHEARSAL... ABOUT LAST CHANGES IN TEMPLE DANCE!

DANCE? CHAN--I DON'T FOLLOW YOU! WHERE IS THE CONNECTION?

DANCE WAS ALSO **CODE!** STEINER CHANGE STEPS... TO CONFORM WITH CODE ON DUMMY'S **JACKET!** DUMMY **ALWAYS** PRESENT AT REHEARSALS, BECAUSE STEINER HAS NEED TO REFER TO CODE, YET MISS LUBECK **NEVER** REHEARSE!

YOU'RE SAYING I HELPED STEINER! YOU'RE INSANE! I HELPED YOU --- I FREED YOU!



YES, YOU CALL STEINER, WHEN I LEAVE YOUR ROOM! YOU SUSPECT... SO HE KIDNAP ME! THEN--YOU RELEASE ME. ONLY--YOU CALL STEINER AGAIN... AND HE HAS MAN WAITING AT SIDE ENTRANCE TO KILL ME!

ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT! YOU KNOW!! BUT YOU WON'T ARREST ME!



CORRECTION, PLEASE! JUSTICE SOMETIMES VERY STRANGE, MISS LUBECK! LITTLE WOODEN HEAD NOT ONLY TELL US NAMES OF GUILTY PARTIES, BUT IN END --- EVEN ASSIST IN **CAPTURE** OF SAME! SO SORRY--



IT IS OVER, THEN. BUT ONE MYSTERY STILL REMAINS TO BE CLEARED UP, AFTERWARD.

NUMBER ONE SON SEEKS STRANGELY UNHAPPY!--YOU PERHAPS FEEL SORRY FOR THE VERY PRETTY MISS LUBECK?

HER? FAT CHANCE! NO, IT ISN'T THAT, POP... IT'S SU-LIN! I JUST SAID GOODBYE TO HER...

GOODBYE--THEN-- I ME 'EM, ALL RIGHT! ONLY THERE WAS JUST **ONE** OF THEM. THAT'S HIM WITH HER NOW. HE LIVES HERE IN PARIS!

SO? THE MAN WITH HER... HE IS HER BROTHER? HE'S--HER HUSBAND! WOMEN--PHOOEY!!



The END

**Boys! Girls!
Men!
Women!**



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CHARLIE CHAN

CHARLIE CHAN

A Wise Man
has Said--

"HE WHO WILL NOT LISTEN
TO WHISPERS
OF OWN CONSCIENCE
HAS ONLY SELF TO
BLAME IF WHISPERS
BECOME..."

The
**TALKING
STONE
FACE!**"

MISTER CHAN-- MAYBE
WE SHOULD TURN BACK!
I'M AFRAID FOR ELLEN.
THERE HAVE BEEN
THREE TRAGEDIES
ALREADY...NO TREASURE
IS WORTH THAT MUCH!

DEATH IS ONE
APPOINTMENT ALL
MEN MUST KEEP!
BUT SUGGEST WE GO
ON. IF DEDUCTIONS
CORRECT, SLAYER
WILL REVEAL SELF
WITHIN NEXT
FEW HOURS!



IT IS SIESTA TIME IN MEXICO. ON THE PATIO OF A TINY MEXICAN HOTEL. CHARLIE CHAN, ON VACATION, DOZES. BUT THERE IS ONE WORD GUARANTEED TO DRIVE ALL THOUGHTS OF SLEEP FROM HIS MIND--

MUERTE!
MUERTE!

DEATH! POP! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT'S ALL ABOUT?



FROM SPEED OF BAREFOOT ONE-- WOULD SAY SOMETHING MOST UNPLEASANT. BAD NEWS TRAVEL SO FAST LIGHTNING CANNOT CATCH. COME.

ALCALDE!
ALCALDE!



CHARLIE CHAN

THE BAREFOOT PEON RACES INSIDE, AND BY THE TIME HE RETURNS WITH THE MAYOR -- THE ALCALDE -- THE BAD NEWS IS OBVIOUS.

MISTER CHAN! YOU ARE JUST THE MAN WE NEED. JUAN, HERE, TELLS ME HE HAS FOUND A DEAD MAN! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

MAN IN CART KILLED -- WITH THIS. BUT HE WHO LISTEN LEARN MORE THAN HE WHO TALK! LET PEON TELL STORY.

THERE IS LITTLE TO TELL, SEÑOR! THE MAN IS SEÑOR KING. I FIND HIM ON TRAIL. HE IS ONE OF THOSE FROM THE UNIVERSITY!

IT IS AN EXPEDITION. MISTER CHAN THEY SEEK THE TALKING STONE FACE! IT IS A LEGEND OF THE INDIOS. THEY SAY THERE IS A TREASURE HIDDEN IN A LOST AZTEC CITY GUARDED BY A HUGE SKULL --



KING! HE -- THAT ARROW! ELLEN! IT'S A DEATH ARROW! THE KIND THE ANCIENT AZTECS USED IN THEIR CEREMONIAL EXECUTIONS!

YOU'RE CHARLIE CHAN, THE DETECTIVE. FORGIVE ME, MISTER CHAN BUT I'VE BEEN ON EXPEDITIONS IN MEXICO BEFORE. I'VE SEEN OTHER ARROWS LIKE THAT ONE.

YOU -- YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ALL OF US, MISTER CHAN. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW UPSET WE ARE. I'M JEFF CREWS. THIS IS ELLEN MASON -- AND PROFESSOR WILLIAMS.

SO HAPPY TO MAKE ACQUAINTANCE. YOU ARE ENTIRE PERSONNEL OF EXPEDITION?

NO, THERE ARE TWO MORE MEN. WE'RE FROM LAWSON UNIVERSITY. ELLEN'S FATHER CLAIMED TO HAVE LOCATED THE TREASURE GUARDED BY THE TALKING STONE FACE! HE MADE A MAP --



... AND DIED BEFORE HE COULD RETURN HERE. IT'S ALMOST AS IF LEGENDS ARE--TRUE. AS IF ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO CLAIM THE TREASURE -- WILL DIE.

THAT'S NONSENSE! DAD WOULD NEVER HAVE GIVEN ME THE MAP IF HE THOUGHT IT WOULD PUT ME IN DANGER. MISTER CHAN -- IT IS NONSENSE, ISN'T IT?



BUT THAT QUESTION -- CHAN DOES NOT ANSWER INSTEAD, LATER, HE GATHERS ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION TOGETHER.

MISTER CHAN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THESE QUESTIONS. SURELY YOU DON'T SUSPECT ANY OF US. WHY, WE'VE ALL BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS.

WHEN FORTUNE COME IN WINDOW FRIENDSHIP SOMETIMES GO OUT DOOR, MISTER PARKS. NO TWO OF PARTY TOGETHER DURING LAST THREE HOURS ALL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL KING AND RETURN.



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<p>147. Men's traditional wedding ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>148. Men's diamond ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>149. Men's diamond ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>150. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>151. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>152. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>153. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>154. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>155. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>156. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>157. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>158. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>159. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>160. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>	<p>161. Men's Masonic ring, bezel set diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.</p>
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CHARLIE CHAN

REASON FOR MURDER NOT YET CLEAR. BUT DEATH WEAPON MOST INTERESTING. HAVE SUSPICION MURDERER WILL STRIKE AGAIN. WOULD THEREFORE GLADLY ACCOMPANY EXPEDITION, IF PERMISSION GRANTED.

US? UH-OH, NOT ME. THE ONLY ARROW I'M INTERESTED IN IS THE ONE MARKED-- EXIT! I'M LEAVIN'!

BUT THE OTHERS DO NOT FEEL AS BIRMINGHAM FEELS. PERMISSION IS GRANTED, UNANIMOUSLY, AND A DAY LATER-- THE EXPEDITION IS UNDER WAY.

OUCH! MY ACHING BACK! WHY DIDN'T I STAY IN NEW YORK?

AW, BUTTON UP, BIRMINGHAM. NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO US YET, HAS IT? YOU JUST LEAVE THIS TO POP. YOU'LL SEE. HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.



BUT--POP DOES NOTHING. DAY AFTER BROILING, BAKING DAY GOES BY. THE EXPEDITION MOVES INTO THE BADLANDS. THEN, ON A NIGHT WHEN IT IS MANY MILES FROM CIVILIZATION, SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN.

WHAT--
MISS ELLEN!
LOOK OUT!



A SHADOW VANISHES INTO THE DARKNESS. THEN THE PARTY GATHERS AROUND THE FIRE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER. THE MAD! ELLEN ALWAYS KEEPS IT WITH HER. THAT'S WHAT HE WAS AFTER--- WHOEVER HE WAS.

MAN WHO LEAP TO CONCLUSION SOMETIMES FALL AND BREAK NECK. BUT--PERHAPS, THEREFORE, HAVE SUGGESTION. WAY TO DEFEAT PURPOSE OF SLAYER!

CHAN EXPLAINS--AND THE OTHERS AGREE. THE MAP IS PRODUCED, TORN INTO SECTIONS...

SO... NOW EACH OF US HAS ONE PART OF MAP TOGETHER. PIECES ARE WORTH FORTUNE, SEPARATELY--WORTHLESS. SUGGEST ALL RETURN TO BLANKETS. IN MORNING WE GO ON.



BUT THE EXPEDITION IS NOT TO MOVE ON IN THE MORNING. BECAUSE IN THE MORNING, THERE IS A NEW PROBLEM.

EMPTY! EVERY CANTEEN HAS BEEN EMPTIED! MISTER CHAN, WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT?

WHY?

THAT--ONLY GUILTY MAN KNOWS, MISTER HENDRIX. BUT TO CONTINUE WITHOUT WATER WOULD BE FATAL. PARTY WILL HAVE TO FIND WATER OR TURN BACK.



THERE IS NO CHOICE. THE EXPEDITION MEMBERS FAN OUT. BUT THERE IS WATER. EVEN THOUGH IT TAKES LONG HOURS TO FIND IT.

M-M! BROTHER! IS THIS AQUA PURA GOOD?

IDEA IS TO FILL CANTEENS, NOT STOMACH. IDIOT OFFSPRING WILL PLEASE TO FOLLOW EXAMPLE OF CHAN SENIOR, AND FILL CANTEENS. WE MUST RETURN TO OTHERS BEFORE DARK.



CHARLIE CHAN

HEAVY LADEN, CHAN AND SON RETURN TO THE CAMP. BUT IN THEIR ABSENCE TRAGEDY HAS STRUCK-- AGAIN!

SO DEATH COME ON SILENT WINGS FOR SECOND TIME! NO ONE WAS WITH UNFORTUNATE MISTER PARKS WHEN HE DIED?

NO, I WAS COMING BACK TO CAMP-- WHEN I HEARD HIM. I SAW SOMETHING IN THE DARKNESS, EYES! SHINNING! THEN I HEARD PARKS SCREAM! I FOUND HIM -- LIKE THIS!

POP, IT-- IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WHOEVER KILLED HIM DIDN'T EVEN TAKE HIS SECTION OF THE MAP. AND IT'S PITCH BLACK! WHAT COULD SEE WELL ENOUGH IN THE DARK -- TO DO THIS?

IF NUMBER ONE SON IS SUGGESTING THAT KILLER IS GHOST OF LONG-DEAD AZTECS -- NO! KILLER MOST CLEVER, BUT UNDOUBTEDLY HUMAN. ONE OF -- US.



THAT SILENCES THE GROUP. SOBERLY, EACH FINDS HIS BLANKETS. THE NIGHT PASSES. ALONE, CHAN STANDS GUARD. BUT HIS VIGIL IS IN VAIN. IN THE MORNING--MORE TROUBLE.



SOMETHING - SOMEONE -- HAS CLAIMED ANOTHER VICTIM! THE PARTY HUNTS FRANTICALLY FOR THE MISSING MAN. AND THE SEARCH IS -- SUCCESSFUL.

IT SEEMS -- PRETTY OBVIOUS THE PROFESSOR WAS -- DRAGGED HERE. THEN HE WAS -- THROWN OVER.



THE OTHERS RETURN TO CAMP, HOPING AGAINST HOPE. BUT WHEN CHAN ARRIVES, MINUTES LATER, THEIR HOPES DIE.



SO, AGAIN, A CARAVAN MOVES ON. A CARAVAN SMALLER BY THREE THAN IT HAD BEEN AT THE START. BUT THE GOAL IS NEAR, NOW

POP, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IF THE SLAYER IS AFTER THE MAP, WHY DIDN'T HE TAKE THE PART PARKS HAD, AFTER HE KILLED HIM?...



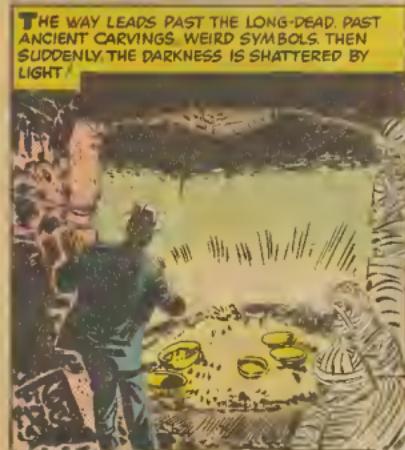
QUIET!
LISTEN!

THE TALKING STONE FACE! IT DOES EXIST! THE MAP DIDN'T LIE!

AND -- SO SIMPLE -- WHEN UNDERSTOOD. STONE WORN BY CENTURIES OF EXPOSURE. WHEN WIND PASS THROUGH OPENINGS, SOUND MADE. NATURAL PHENOMENON. LIKE BASIS OF ALL SUPERSTITIONS.



CHARLIE CHAN



MU --
MU --
MUM --



CHARLIE CHAN



CHARLIE CHAN

CHARLIE CHAN

IN BOOK OF LIFE IT IS SAID---
"CHARLATAN WHO BEGINS
CLIMB TO SUCCESS BY USE
OF TRICKS MUST ALSO BE
PREPARED FOR..."

TRICK ENDING!"



ON THE MIDWAY AT CONEY, A SMALL DUMPLED FIGURE ENTERS A SIDESHOW TENT AND JERKS A TINY THUMB BACKWARD...

MYSTO
THE MAN
WHO LETS
HIMSELF BE
BURIED
ALIVE!

TICK--

TICK--



CHARLIE CHAN

THE PARADE GOES ON AND ON, BUT AT LAST, THE END OF THE LINE APPEARS.

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEBODY SHOWED UP WITH TICKETS --

MYSTO

THE MAN WHO LETS HIMSELF BE BURIED ALIVE!

OH, NO!
FREE PASS!



THE CLAN OF CHAN HAS ARRIVED, AND AS IF ON CUE -- THE SHOW BEGINS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE COFFIN WILL NOW BE CLOSED. MYSTO WILL THEN BE LOWERED INTO HIS LIVING GRAVE -- SIX FEET OF EARTH WILL THEN BE SHOVELLED OVER HIM --

GOSH! POP, DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S ON THE LEVEL?

TRICK IS NOT NEW, BUT AM MORE INTERESTED IN MYSTIC. FACE WAS MOST FAMILIAR. IS REALLY JOE SANTEE, CONFIDENCE MAN AND EX-CONVICT.

HUH? AND HE DOES THIS FOR A LIVING? WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT? A CROOK!

BUT THERE IS NOTHING ILLEGAL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW. CHAN RELAXES. THE SHOW GOES ON.

AND NOW -- MYSTO IS BURIED ALIVE! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY REMAIN, OR RETURN IN HALF AN HOUR TO SEE HIM DUG UP.

IN HALF HOUR MOTHER OF CHAN OFFSPRING WILL BE WONDERING WHY FAMILY IS NOT HOME FOR DINNER. WE GO NOW.



WEARY BUT HAPPY, THE CLAN RETURNS HOME. MYSTO IS FORGOTTEN -- BUT NOT FOR LONG --

POP! LOOK AT THIS! THE GUY WHO TRIED TO HOLD UP THE BANK -- HIS DESCRIPTION FITS JOE SANTEE PERFECTLY.

SO, THEN -- OLD CHESTNUT STILL TRUE. LEOPARD DOES NOT CHANGE SPOTS.



HEY! POP, WAIT UP! YOU DON'T THINK HE PULLED THE JOB? IT HAPPENED AT THREE O'CLOCK! AT THREE O'CLOCK SANTEE WAS SIX FEET UNDER!

MAN WHO WOULD STRIKE DOG CAN ALWAYS FIND STICK. POLICE WILL BE GREATLY INTERESTED. YOU HELP HONORABLE MOTHER WITH DISHES.



CHARLIE CHAN

CHAN TAKES OFF, ALONE. AND THE POLICE ARE VERY INTERESTED. BUT LATER, JOE SANTEE'S ALIBI SEEMS AIR TIGHT!

WELL? ARE YOU SATISFIED?
I TOLD YOU! I'VE GONE STRAIGHT! I WAS IN A COFFIN WHEN THAT BANK WAS STUCK UP.

FRESH EARTH AT SIDE OF GRAVE INDICATE EXISTENCE OF TUNNEL. BUT TUNNEL HAS BEEN FILLED IN. MOST CLEVER ALIBI.

ALIBI? YOU LOOKED FOR A HINGED SIDE ON THE COFFIN -- AND IT WASN'T THERE! YOU LOOKED FOR A TUNNEL -- AND IT ISN'T THERE! YOU'RE CRAZY!

NEVERTHELESS, BELIEVE YOU GUILTY. COFFIN COULD HAVE BEEN SWITCHED. YOU LEAVE BY TUNNEL, ATTEMPT TO ROB BANK, AND RETURN BY TUNNEL.



YEAH? TRY TO PROVE IT! AND A HUNDRED PEOPLE WILL SWEAR YOU'RE HAVING PIPE DREAMS. ARREST ME AND I'LL KICK UP THE BIGGEST RACKET YOU EVER HEARD.

LAWBREAKER LIKE MULE. MULE ALSO KICK -- BUT SOONER OR LATER WIND UP WEARING HALTER. ALIBI IRON CLAD, BUT -- CHAN WILL NOT FORGET.

POP, I DON'T GET IT. WHY DO YOU KEEP FOLLOWING SANTEE?

MAN WHO WOULD STALK TIGER IS WISE TO FIRST LEARN TIGER'S WEAKNESS. MERELY OBSERVE CRIMINAL IN HOPE HE WILL MAKE ERROR.



ONLY, SANTEE MAKES NO ERRORS -- IT IS JIMMY WHO LATER UNCOVERS A WEAK SPOT --

STOP HERE, BIRMINGHAM. THIS NEW FORTUNE TELLER IS SUPPOSED TO BE REAL COOL! MAYBE HE CAN TELL US ABOUT JOE SANTEE.



BIRMINGHAM IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC. BUT NUMBER ONE SON IS IN NO MOOD FOR PROTESTS. SOON AFTER, THEY ARE ON TROUBLE'S DOORSTEP.

G-GOSH -- THIS SURE IS A CREEPY JOINT!
MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE OFF --

J- JUST TURN ME AROUND, MISTER JIMMY--
M-MY OLD BONES WON'T BUDGE.



THEN -- YOU SHOULD FEEL RIGHT AT HOME HERE MY FRIEND.
THE DEAD ARE -- ALL ABOUT YOU

MYSTO! WE--UH--
WE JUST DROPPED
IN TO -- TO HAVE
OUR FORTUNES
TOLD.



CHARLIE CHAN

MYSTO DOES NOT TELL FORTUNES.
MYSTO IS MERELY A LINK BETWEEN
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. COME,
YOU SHALL SEE.

THERE IS NO CHOICE. IN A MOMENT, THREE MEN SIT
STARING AT A CRYSTAL BALL. AND THE SHADOWS SEEM
TO BE ALIVE, THREATENING ...

SPIRITS OF THE DEAD -- HERE ARE
TWO WHO WOULD LOOK INTO THE
FUTURE. GIVE THEM THE
ANSWERS THEY SEEK.

NO! WE ARE HERE, CALLED FROM THE
GREAT BEYOND -- BUT WE CANNOT SPEAK.
THESE TWO ARE UNBELIEVERS --

THAT AIN'T
SO! I
BELIEVE!
TELL 'EM,
MISTER
JIMMY!

I'LL TELL THEM
NOTHING! I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF THIS!
WE'RE GETTING OUT
OF HERE! AND NOBODY
HAD BETTER TRY TO
STOP US.

I THINK YOU
WENT TOO FAR,
SANTEE --
THAT WAS
CHAN'S
SON AND HIS
CHAUFFEUR...

I KNOW
THAT, MIKE.
I LET 'EM
IN SO THE
KID WOULD
RUN AND
TELL PAPA

ALL ABOUT IT.
I JUST HOPE CHAN
COMES HIMSELF,
NEXT TIME. I'D
LIKE TO SHOW HIM
THAT HE'S NOT
AS SMART AS
HE THINKS.

AND JIMMY CHAN DOES
RACE HOME TO PAPA. ONLY
PAPA IS NOT SURPRISED.

YOU SAYING
YOU'VE KNOWN
ALL ALONG
THAT SANTEE
WAS IN THE
FORTUNE
TELLING
RACKET?

AT MAGIC
SHOP INDICATE
SAME, BUT
HAVE IDEA.
SANTEE USE
CERTAIN TRICK,
PLACES BLANK
PAPER IN EMPTY
BOTTLE--WRITING
APPEAR ON
PAPER.

HUH?
MESSAGE WRITTEN WITH
COPPER SULPHATE -- INVISIBLE
INK. BOTTLE ONCE HELD
AMMONIA. FUMES MAKE
WRITING APPEAR. MOST
INTERESTING. NOW -- TELL
ONCE AGAIN ABOUT VISIT
TO SPOOK FACTORY.

MISTER CHAN -- YOU
SHOULD HAVE HEARD
IT! A REAL LIVE GHOST!
IT ANSWERS QUESTIONS.
I'LL BET IT COULD EVEN
HAVE PICKED A WINNER
AT THE RACES.

THEN -- WHY
NOT CONTINUE
SEANCES?
MIGHT PROVE
MOST
PROFITABLE.

HMM -- I
WONDER ABOUT THAT
NAG THAT'S
RUNNING IN
THE THIRD
TOMORROW.

CHARLIE CHAN

A HALF HOUR LATER...
JOE! CHAN'S CHAUFFEUR IS OUTSIDE. HE SAYS HE WANTS TO SIT-IN ON A SEANCE. WHAT DO WE DO?

ONE CHUMP'S DOUGH IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER'S. BRING HIM IN.

THE LIGHTS DIM. SANTEE'S ASSISTANT RETIRES BEHIND HIS CURTAIN, AND BIRMINGHAM ATTENDS HIS SECOND SEANCE.

CONCENTRATE... CONCENTRATE... THROUGH THE TRUMPET THE VOICES OF THE DEAD WILL SPEAK. THEY WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS...

QUESTIONS -- YEAH -- YEAH! THAT'S WHY I COME. ASK--ASK THE SPOOKS HOW--HOW I CAN INVEST MY CASH



CASH! THE WORD IS MUSIC TO SANTEE'S EARS BUT HE DOES NOT HURRY THINGS. BIRMINGHAM IS LED ALONG BY THE NOSE. THERE ARE OTHER VISITS, OTHER SEANCES.

JOE, I DON'T LIKE IT. THAT CHAUFFEUR'S BEEN HERE FIVE TIMES. HE CAN'T BE AS DUMB AS HE ACTS.

HE'S DUMBER! HE TOLD THE SPOOKS HE'S GOT THREE GRAND. I'VE GOT HIM HOOKED.

TOMORROW--WE USE THE BOTTLE TRICK, AS FOR CHAN--IF HE SHOWS, WE'LL BE WATCHING FOR HIM.

SO THAT'S IT YOU'RE LOOKING TO MAKE A MONKEY OF CHAN--THROUGH THE CHAUFFEUR.

OKAY. I ONLY HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

MYSTO NODS, BUT HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A PLAN. THAT EVENING CHAN AGAIN SEEKS OUT BIRMINGHAM.

SO TOMORROW NIGHT THE DEAD WILL ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS? MYSTO TOLD YOU HOW, BIRMINGHAM?

YEAH! MISTER CHAN, HE AIN'T NO FAKER! HE PUTS A PIECE OF BLANK PAPER IN A BOTTLE AND SPOOK WRITING COMES OUT OF IT!



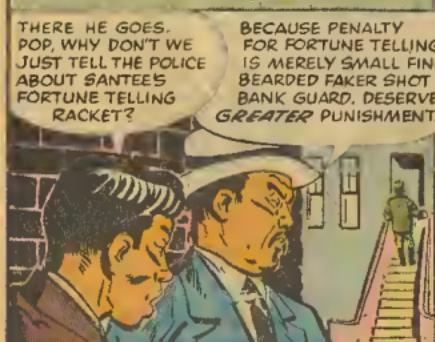
BIRMINGHAM HAS SWALLOWED THE BAIT, HOOK AND ALL. NEXT EVENING HE IS AT MYSTO'S EARLY, BUT HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT--CHAN IS RIGHT BEHIND HIM.

THERE HE GOES. POP, WHY DON'T WE JUST TELL THE POLICE ABOUT SANTEE'S FORTUNE TELLING RACKET?

BECAUSE PENALTY FOR FORTUNE TELLING IS MERELY SMALL FINE. BEARDED FAKER SHOT BANK GUARD, DESERVES GREATER PUNISHMENT.

IF PLAN OF THIS HUMBLE ONE SUCCEED, CRIMINAL WILL SPEND NEXT TEN YEARS IN PRISON REGRETTING ATTEMPTED HOLDUP--

WHICH IS JUST WHAT SANTEE FIGURED. HE EXPECTED YOU, CHAN--OKAY, MOVE!



CHARLIE CHAN

A LOADED GUN IS A VERY PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT. CHAN DOES NOT RESIST-- MOMENTS LATER, HE IS FACE TO FACE WITH THE ENEMY.

SO, WE MEET AGAIN. WHERE IS CHAUFFEUR.

IN THE NEXT ROOM, WAITING FOR THE SPIRITS. BUT-- BUT YOU AREN'T GOING TO TALK TO HIM, CHAN. IN FACT-- YOU'RE ALL WASHED UP.



I HOPE YOU'D COME HERE! NOW-- YOU CAN WATCH WHILE I SEPARATE YOUR CHAUFFEUR FROM HIS DOUGH! I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW!

YOU WON'T BE ENJOYING MUCH OF ANYTHING AFTERWARD, CHAN-- WHEN JOE FINISHES WITH THE CHAUFFEUR-- WE'RE TAKING A LITTLE RIDE.



CHAN AND SON ARE HERDED UP THE LADDER, AND A MOMENT LATER--

CUTE EH CHAN? SOUND-PROOF GLASS-- WE CAN SEE DOWN, BUT NO ONE CAN SEE UP. JOE THINKS OF EVERYTHING!



THE SILENCE IS THICK, HEAVY! THEN-- THERE ARE VOICES, FROM THE LOUD SPEAKER ON THE WALL. FIRST, THE VOICE OF MYSTO...

THE TIME IS-- NOW, THE DEAD CROWD AROUND! QUICKLY! TELL ME-- WHOM SHALL I CALL? GIVE ME A NAME, THE NAME OF SOMEONE WHO HAS GONE BEYOND.



B-BOB GRAHAM. HE-- HE WAS A PAL OF MINE. HE-- HE DIED A YEAR AGO...

SO! BOB GRAHAM-- COME! YOUR FRIEND CALLS! GIVE HIM THE ANSWER HE SEEKS! ON THIS PAPER-- WRITE YOUR MESSAGE.

POP, LOOK! THERE'S WRITING ON THE PAPER.

THAT'S RIGHT, JUNIOR. BUT KEEP LISTENING. YOU AINT HEARD NOTHING YET.



IT-- IT HAPPENED! JUST LIKE YOU SAID IT WOULD! -- BOB WROTE

ME A MESSAGE. SAYS: BRING YOUR MONEY HERE, ENTRUST IT TO MYSTO.

YES. LISTEN. YOUR FRIEND

SAYS: BRING

YOUR MONEY HERE, ENTRUST IT TO MYSTO. MYSTO WILL INVEST FOR YOU. YOU WILL BE RICH--



CHARLIE CHAN

BIRMINGHAM GASPS, THEN -- HE STUMBLERS OUT, AND FOR THE TWO CHANS, THE END DRAWS NEAR.

OKAY, LET'S GO. YOUR CHAUFFEUR WILL BE BACK -- WITH HIS CASH. BUT BY THEN, YOU WON'T CARE MUCH. YOU LOSE, DETECTIVE.

CANDLE DOES NOT GO OUT UNTIL LAST DROP OF WAX BURNED AWAY. WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS CONTEST STILL FAR FROM ENDED.



SO SORRY TO SPOIL PLANS OF CLEVER CONFIDENCE MAN. BUT THIS HUMBLE ONE MUCH TOO FOND OF LIVING TO DEPART THIS WORLD JUST YET.

OKAY--YOU WIN! BUT HOW? I HAD ALL THE ANGLES FIGURED!



COULD HAVE ARRESTED YOU FOR FORTUNE TELLING BUT WISHED TO CATCH YOU IN ACT OF SWINDLE, SO SENT BIRMINGHAM. TURNED YOU IN, SANTEE -- WE MET CHAN AND YOUR HOOD OUTSIDE.



THAT, HOWEVER, SOUNDS LIKE WHISTLING IN THE DARK. CHAN AND SON ARE MARCHED OUT THE FRONT DOOR... THEN A SATISFIED MYSTO RELAXES. BUT -- NOT FOR LONG.



CHAN!

YOU SEE, BEFORE BIRMINGHAM LEAVE HOUSE TONIGHT, CHAN SUGGEST THAT HE CALL UPON SPIRIT OF BOB GRAHAM. UNFORTUNATELY, CHAN AND SON WALK INTO TRAP. BUT WHEN MESSAGE APPEAR, BIRMINGHAM CATCH ON.

HE -- HE CAUGHT ON? YOU'RE CRAZY! HE REALLY WENT FOR THAT GHOST HOKUM!



NOT SO! WHEN WRITING APPEAR, BIRMINGHAM KNOW AT ONCE IT IS FAKE!

YOU BET IT WAS A FAKE! IMAGINE! TRYIN' TO TELL ME BOB GRAHAM WROTE THEM WORDS-- WHEN I KNOW HE NEVER LEARNED TO READ OR WRITE!



CRIMINAL WHO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE FOOLS OF POLICE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY SWING BOTH WAYS -- TAKE THEM AWAY, OFFICERS...



The End

Charles Chan.

TIGHTROPE

She yelled at him in 1934 and twenty years later he had to save her life . . .

265 Grand Street was where he'd been born. He knew every inch of its long, narrow, dingy halls, every step of its seven flights of stairs.

265 Grand Street was also where the robber was holed up in the landlady's top-floor apartment, the man's rent collector in his poke and Mrs. Narody, the landlady, cowed with fear.

Patrolman Dick Streder stood on the fourth floor landing. Below him, in the street, a roped-off crowd uttered frenzied cries. He knew he mustn't fail — and he knew he might.

Streder leaned toward the stair railing, his police gun already drawn, his whole body tense. The building had already been cleared of all its inhabitants below the fifth floor. Those in-between were in the line of fire. He poked his head forward an inch, twisting it round and upward.

CRACK!

The bullet whizzed by his head, buried itself in the floor of the landing. Simultaneously he heard a scrambling noise, a banging of doors and then the clump-clump of two pairs of feet on the last flight of stairs to the roof. Streder's heart contracted. The robber was forcing old Mrs. Narody up to the roof with him, to use as a shield against the police. Once up there, Streder knew, he might even escape, get away with the money. He darted downstairs, ran outside into the street and then up the front steps of 267, next door,

tenants scattering before him. In minutes he was at the roof door. Quietly he opened it, stepped cautiously out on the roof, ducking down well below the level of the brick balustrades. Then he raised his head. Across the alley, he could see the back of the robber's head, ducked against the roof door of 265 and next to the head, Mrs. Narody's.

He knew he had to act immediately, within seconds. He took one look at the distance separating him from the further roof across the alley — it was almost twenty feet. Vaulting the balustrade he dropped lightly on a doubled clothesline stretched from one roof to the other. It tightened under his weight, held. Deftness, dulled by the years, came back to him. In three seconds he'd touched the edge of the other roof and was, simultaneously, reversing his gun. One final leap, launched from the roof's edge and he reached the robber just as the robber's head snapped round in alarm. Streder brought the gun up against the robber's chin. The chin snapped back and the man went down, releasing Mrs. Narody.

She gave a gasp of relief.

"Why—why you must have walked that clothesline all the way over here, young man!" she cried.

Streder grinned.

"Sure I did, Mrs. Narody," he said. "I had a lot of practice doing it a long time ago on clotheslines down on the first floor when I lived here back in 1934. Remember me, Mrs. Narody? You used to bawl the heck out of me for it then!" And again he grinned.

— The End —

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YOU GET EVERYTHING, the JAR of JUELENE SYSTEM (SCALP and HAIR LUBRICANT), the LANOLIN CREAM SHAMPOO, the DH-12 FORMULA containing CHOLESTEROL, plus the SPECIAL LANOLIN COMPOUND, ALL A REAL RARGAIN AT \$4.69 BUT ALL YOU PAY IS ONLY \$2.98, plus postage, FOR EVERYTHING. FOLLOW THE JUELENE SYSTEM DIRECTIONS you receive with your package OF THESE 4 FORMULAS, and YOU WILL BLESS THE DAY YOU BEGAN AND TRIED THIS PROPER WAY.

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YOU GET FULL DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO USE EVERYTHING, PLUS A REGULAR \$2. LESSON ON HOW TO PIN CURL OVER-NITE, WAVE AND STYLE YOUR HAIR BY JUEL'S HAIR STYLIST.



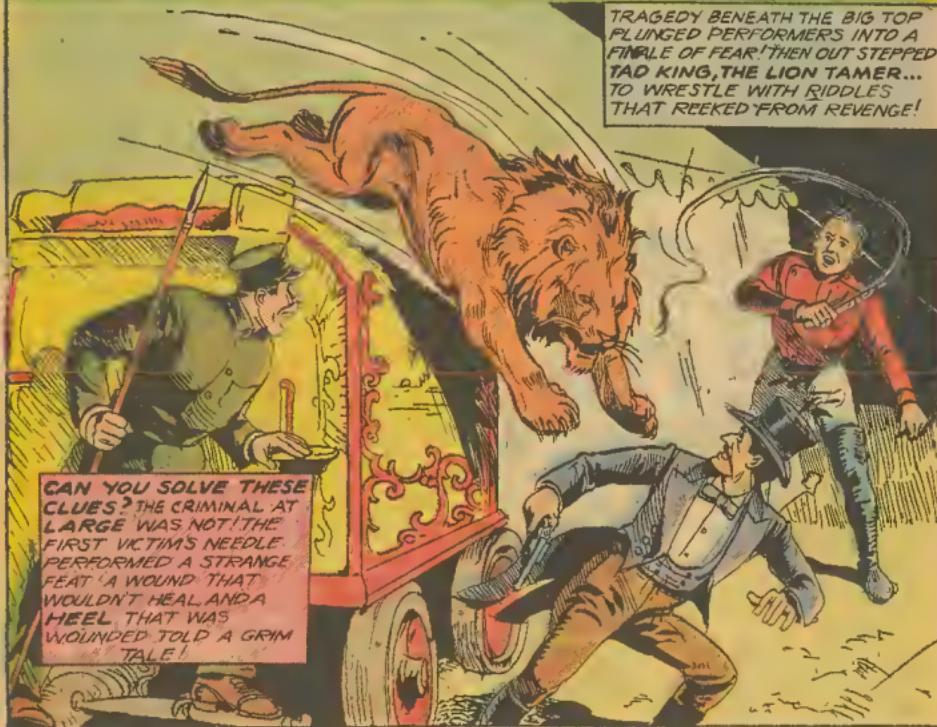
100%
GUARANTEE
MONEY BACK IF
NOT SATISFIED!
YOU CAN'T LOSE!

SPECIAL
3 MONTH
SIZE
TREATMENT

CHARLIE CHAN

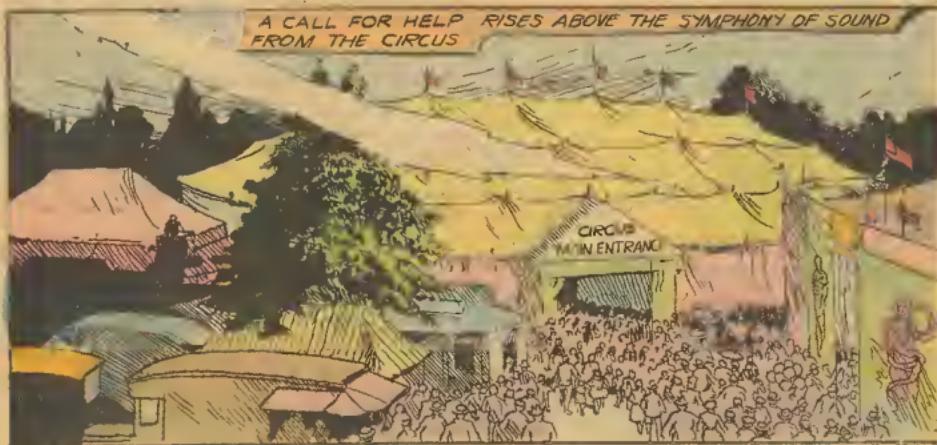
LION TAMER!

TRAGEDY BENEATH THE BIG TOP PLUNGED PERFORMERS INTO A FINALE OF FEAR! THEN OUT STEPPED TAD KING, THE LION TAMER... TO WRESTLE WITH RIDDLES THAT REEKED FROM REVENGE!



CAN YOU SOLVE THESE CLUES? THE CRIMINAL AT LARGE WAS NOT! THE FIRST VICTIM'S NEEDLE PERFORMED A STRANGE FEAT: A WOUND THAT WOULDN'T HEAL AND A HEEL THAT WAS WOUNDED TOLD A GRIM TALE!

A CALL FOR HELP RISES ABOVE THE SYMPHONY OF SOUND FROM THE CIRCUS



CHARLIE CHAN

ZELDA, QUEEN OF
THE BAREBACK
TROUPE! SHE'S
BEEN WOUNDED!

POOR ZELDA--

IT'S A GUN
SHOT WOUND.
SURE ENOUGH!

IN THE CENTER RING, THE
LION TAMER
NOTES A SUDDEN CHANGE
IN HIS SAVAGE CATS!

HOLD IT RAJAH!
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?

GOLLY--- DORIS
LOST HER GRIP AND
THERE'S NO SAFETY NET!

WHW! THE SHOW'S OVER
BUT TROUBLE'S BEGUN!
MOVE ALONG, SAHARA!

IT WAS NO
ACCIDENT--
I SAW A
GUN FLASH
OVER THERE

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DANCE
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CHARLIE CHAN

WHAT'S THE MATTER THURMAN. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN DORIS FELL?

MY REVOLVER! SOME ONE LIFTED IT FROM MY POCKET!



KING! CALL THE SHERIFF! ZELDA WAS HURT-- AND DORIS WAS SHOT!

WOA, THERE, JERRY THIMBLE! GIVE ME THE DETAILS!



THEY FOUND ZELDA UNDER THE GRANDSTAND. SHE WAS WOUNDED BY A GUN SHOT! WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO HURT HER?

LUCKY THAT MIDGET DREW HIS ATTENTION OH-OH! KING'S AFTER ME NOW HE SUSPECTS.

LAY OFF ROSCOE! THE RINGMASTER IS MIXED UP IN A MURDER!



LISTEN STRONGMAN! I'VE NO TIME FOR ARGUMENT!

DON'T LET HIM GO... HE'S GOT TO BE A SUSPECT!!

HE WON'T RUN OFF, GANERY!



CHARLIE CHAN



CHARLIE CHAN



CHARLIE CHAN



Charles Chen

COMEDY COP

There are times when appearances are everything . . . and even doom can dress to kill . . .

Patrolman Joe O'Doul checked in for duty, went carefully over his gun, oiled his night-stick and then went up to the blotter room for assignment. From behind the desk Sergeant Hannerty greeted him noncomittally and handed him his section of the blotter to attend to. O'Doul, in his notebook, noted down the calls he'd have to make before he attended to the routine business of the beat. Robbery at a store on Carmichael St. Follow-up of a burglary on Pine Ave. There were a few others, and everything minor. Joe was about to leave when Hannerty grunted.

"You knew Steve Sattlee, didn't you, Joe?" he asked.

"That's right, Sarge," Joe said. At least he had years ago when he and Steve were boys together. At least he had when he'd turned Steve in on a murder charge—Steve the vain, Steve the proud, Steve unable to admit a fault in himself, without the ability to stop and think before catapulting into catastrophe. Steve, driving on his folly until overweening pride made him stumble.

Joe swallowed hard.

"Well, Steve busted out of State Prison last night," Hannerty said. "He hated you, didn't he?" And when Joe nodded, he said: "Keep an eye out. Steve's armed."

Joe's spine stiffened as he saluted and left. It was already dark. He passed patrolman

after patrolman on the way back to report off-duty. Further and further into the slums he went, stopping off now and again on his assignments. Then he was almost at the end of his beat, near the old neighborhood where as boys he and Steve had played.

Another cop passed him on the way back to the station. Joe nodded, swinging his night-stick. The streets grew more deserted, dim canyons of pale, yellow light, tombs of emptiness and danger. Abruptly, as he glimpsed something, the hair on the back of his neck rose. He saw the leg jutting out from behind the recess in the store entrance, saw the flash of the brass buttons. For an instant he relaxed, then his heart beat faster, and the next instant his nightstick lashed up and then down.

Steve Sattlee crumpled, his stolen gun clattering into the gutter. Joe retrieved it, pulled Steve to his feet and shoved him toward the precinct station.

"You couldn't have known it was me," Steve gasped, glaring sideways at him. "You couldn't . . . !"

"No?" Joe asked coolly. "And you never could admit you'd made a bad mistake, Steve. Not even when you robbed that costume store on my beat early this morning and stole a cop's rig so you could waylay me just long enough to get in a few .44 slugs. Not even when you forgot you were color-blind and picked a uniform that looked blue to you, but which was actually bright yellow — a costume for a comedy cop!"

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